

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: ARTICLE IN NEW YORK TIMES

FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS

1. FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE IN NEW YORK TIMES,  
SATURDAY, JUNE 29, BY BERNARD GWERTZMAN ON EGYPTIAN JAILING  
OF THE EIGHT TERRORISTS RELEASED BY SUDAN:

BEGIN TEXT:

THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT IT HAD BEEN INFORMED  
THAT THE EIGHT PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS WHO WERE CONVICTED OF  
KILLING TWO SENIOR AMERICAN DIPLOMATS AND A BELGIAN IN  
KHARTOUM LAST YEAR WERE NOW IN PRISON IN EGYPT.

ROBERT ANDERSON, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, REFUSED TO  
PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THE FATE OF THE EIGHT,  
WHOSE VIRTUAL RELEASE BY THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT ON MONDAY  
TOUCHED OFF A STRONG AMERICAN PROTEST TO THE SUDAN FOR HER  
FAILURE TO LIVE UP TO A PLEDGE TO PUNISH THE GUERRILLAS  
SEVERELY.

LIFE SENTENCES GIVEN THE GUERRILLAS BY A SUDANESE COURT  
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WERE COMMUTED TO SEVEN YEARS ON MONDAY BY PRESIDENT GAAFAR

AL-NIMEIRY OF THE SUDAN, WHO ADDED THAT THE GUERRILLAS WOULD SERVE THEIR SENTENCES IN THE CUSTODY OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. THEY WERE FLOWN TO CAIRO ON TUESDAY.

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT, HERMANN F. EILTS, RAISED THE MATTER WITH THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ISMAIL FAHMY ON TUESDAY, EXPRESSING THE AMERICAN VIEW THAT THE EIGHT CONFESSED MURDERERS NOT BE ALLOWED TO GO FREE.

MR. ANDERSON REFUSED TO REPORT WHAT MR. FAHMY HAD TOLD MR. EILTS. BUT IT WAS LEARNED THAT THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THE MEN WERE IN PRISON AS PART OF AN ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN GENERAL NIMEIRY AND THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT, ANWAR EL-SADAT. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EGYPTIANS REGARDED THE IMPRISONMENT AS TEMPORARY, LEAVING OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GUERRILLAS MIGHT BE SENT TO ANOTHER ARAB COUNTRY.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHICH VIGOROUSLY CONDEMNED GENERAL NIMEIRY'S ACTIONS, HAS BECOME EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN RECENT DAYS IN DISCUSSING THE MATTER, FOR FEAR OF UPSETTING THE EGYPTIANS.

AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE NOTED THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAD TO CONSIDER THE REACTION OF BOTH THE ARAB WORLD--INCLUDING THE PALESTINIANS--AND THE UNITED STATES IN DECIDING WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE GUERRILLAS.

THE EGYPTIANS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN TOLD BY MR. EILTS THAT THE MOOD IN CONGRESS WAS EXTREMELY BITTER ABOUT THE SUDANESE RELEASE OF THE EIGHT GUERRILLAS, AND THAT IF EGYPT APPEARED TO BE GIVING THE MEN SAFE HAVEN CONGRESS MIGHT REJECT THE VARIOUS AID REQUESTS FOR EGYPT MADE BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

IN THE AFTERMATH OF IMPROVED EGYPTIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ASKED FOR 250 MILLION DOLLARS IN ECONOMIC AID FOR EGYPT. IN ADDITION, THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEGUN NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE SALE OF A NUCLEAR REACTOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO EGYPT FOR USE IN THE NINETEEN-EIGHTIES.

THE NUCLEAR REACTOR AGREEMENT, ANNOUNCED DURING PRESIDENT NIXON'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST EARLIER IN THIS MONTH HAS ALREADY STIRRED OPPOSITION ON CAPITOL HILL AMONG THOSE AFRAID THAT THE EGYPTIANS, DESPITE THE SAFEGUARDS IN THE ACCORD, WOULD CONVERT RADIO-ACTIVE MATERIAL INTO NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE EGYPTIANS WERE SAID TO BE  
RELUCTANT TO APPEAR TO BE PUNISHING THE GUERRILLAS FOR  
THEIR ACTIONS.

THE EIGHT GUERRILLAS, WHO IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS MEMBERS  
OF BLACK SEPTEMBER, AN OFFSHOOT OF AL FATAH, BURST INTO  
THE SAUDI ARABIAN EMBASSY IN KHARTOUM ON MARCH 1, 1973 AND  
TOOK AS HOSTAGES FIVE DIPLOMATS WHO HAD BEEN ATTENDING A  
FAREWELL PARTY FOR GEORGE C. MOORE, THE AMERICAN CHARGE  
D'AFFAIRES WHO WAS TO BE SUCCEEDED BY THE NEW AMERICAN  
AMBASSADOR TO THE SUDAN, CLEO A. NOEL, JR.

EARLY IN THE MORNING OF MARCH 3, MR. NOEL AND GUY EID, THE  
BELGIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, WERE KILLED.

GENERAL NIMEIRY, IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT AFTER THE INCIDENT,  
PROMISED JUST PUNISHMENTS WOULD BE METED OUT TO THE  
KILLERS. AFTER LONG DELAYS, THE GUERRILLAS WENT ON TRIAL  
RECENTLY AND WERE SENTENCED ON MONDAY TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

AFTER MAKING A PROTEST TO GENERAL NIMEIRY, THE AMERICAN  
AMBASSADOR TO THE SUDAN, WILLIAM D. BREWER, RETURNED TO  
WASHINGTON YESTERDAY, FOR WHAT MAY BE AN INDEFINITE STAY.

END TEXT. SISCO

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